

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claims 3, 4 and 12-15 have been allowed, claims 2 and 9¹ have been objected to on formal grounds only and were deemed to present allowable subject matter, and claims 1, 5-8, 10, 11 and 16-19 have been rejected. Claims 1, 3-7, 10-12, 16 and 18 are independent.

By this Amendment Applicants seek to cancel claims 1, 5-7, 9-11 and 16-19, place claims 2 and 9 into independent form, and revise claim 8 to depend from allowable claim 9. Upon entry of this Amendment claims 2-4, 7, 9 and 12 will be independent.

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of claims 3, 4 and 12-15, and the indicated allowability of claims 2 and 9. Claims 3, 4 and 12-15 have been maintained unchanged, and so are believed to remain allowable at least for the reasons already given. Allowable claims 2 and 9 have been placed into independent form., and so are in condition for allowance for the reasons already given.

**The Rejection Under
35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1, 5, 6, 16 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Appln. Publn. No. 2001/0019343 to Walker et al.

In view of the cancellation of claims 1, 5, 6, 16 and 17, this rejection is moot, and so must be withdrawn.

¹ Although the Office Action, at page 12, section 14, states claim 19 was objected to but would be allowable, the Office Action Summary sheet and detailed discussion at page 12, section 15 (last paragraph) refer to Claim 9. Also, claim 19 is mentioned in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Accordingly, the reference to claim 19 as being allowable is understood to contain a typographical error, and to have been intended to refer to claim 9. If, however, that is not correct, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone so that suitable action can be taken.

The Rejection Under
35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker in view of U.S. Patent Appln. Publn. No. 2003/0128245 to Walker et al.

In view of the cancellation of claims 7, 10, 11, 18 and 19, and the amendment of claim 8 to depend from allowable claim 9, this rejection is moot, and so must be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection and submit that entry of this Amendment will place the present application in condition for allowance. It is further submitted that entry of this Amendment can be approved by the Examiner consistent with Patent and Trademark Office practice, since the changes it makes should not require a substantial amount of additional work by the Examiner. It is believed that the changes presented in this Amendment address matters that the Examiner has previously considered.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding rejections have been addressed and are now moot. Applicants further submit that all claims pending in this application are patentable over the prior art. Accordingly, favorable consideration and prompt allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. If, however, the Commissioner deems otherwise, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees now or hereafter due in connection with the prosecution of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

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Prompt and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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